



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine  
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
US Department of Agriculture  
OMB Information Collection  
Approval No.: 0524-0046  
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

## Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

### Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

**Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)**

**Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.**

**Veterinary Shortage ID Code: DE113**

#### Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: "Delaware South": State of Delaware--all of Sussex and Kent Counties  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
Location of Position:

Seaford, DE (19973), Bridgeville, DE (19933), or Greenwood, DE (19950)  
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

#### Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☒ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☒ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☒ Other : Bison, Camelids (<5%)

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time\*)

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Placing a food animal veterinarian in Delaware will provide animal producers with a local source of expertise with regards to diseases and management of food animal species. Most Delaware animal producers in the part of the state described in this shortage have been living without a local food animal veterinarian for many years. In addition to providing routine preventive medicine visits, tending to sick animals, and responding to emergency calls, a veterinarian with food animal expertise would serve the producers by acting as a consultant with regards to tough issues such as animal welfare, public perception of routine agricultural practices, the relationship between food animals and public health, and the antibiotic resistance debate.

The objective is to cover an area centered in Seaford, Bridgeville or Greenwood, DE with a 30 to 40 mile radius. Optionally, one could live in Georgetown or Millsboro, DE and still be near the center of this general practice area. The latter 2 towns may be attractive because of their relative proximity to the beach communities of Delaware. The major service area is intended to be Sussex and Kent counties. Sussex county has 258 food animal premises, with **zero** food animal veterinarians in residence. Kent county has 357 food animal premises with 1.20 food animal veterinarians in residence: The overall ratio is 0.20 veterinarians/100 premises for these two Delaware counties. Please note that three counties in Maryland with reported food animal veterinarian shortages may also be covered by this position if desired. Caroline, Dorchester, and Queen Anne's counties in Maryland have 0.0, 0.71, and 1.0 veterinarians/100 premises, respectively.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The minimum time commitment for food animal work is **50%**. The veterinarian will spend at least 20 hours a week engaged in food animal ambulatory practice. The remaining 20 hrs/week may be spent caring for companion animals or equines. **Dairy** work, with an emphasis on population medicine and preventive health, may be one aspect of the practice. Advice is routinely sought by Delaware producers in the areas of nutrition, mastitis, and reproductive programs. Another area of time commitment will be for routine and non-routine visits to **small ruminant, beef cattle, swine, and backyard poultry** operations.

According to the 2007 Census, Sussex and Kent counties had 320 cattle premises, 190 goat premises, 41 sheep premises, and 64 swine premises. We also have a handful of bison, captive cervid, and camelid owners who require veterinary services. There are approximately 800-1,000 backyard flocks in Delaware which contain a mixture of poultry species (chickens, geese, ducks, guinea fowl, etc.). The poultry backyard flock situation is something that concerns us greatly because of the proximity of many commercial broiler facilities.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

The Delaware office of the SAHO sent notification to all the veterinarians in Delaware for whom she has emails to let them know about the "retention" aspect of applying for loan repayment. The SAHO also asked DE veterinarians to spread the news to new graduates who might be interested in food animal practice in DE. Aside from these notifications, no active recruiting efforts have been undertaken by the State Department of Agriculture or by other associations within Delaware. This year we will make announcements at the Delaware VMA meetings after

receiving news that our nomination(s) have been approved. We will use this resourceful group to assist with broadcasting the news to the veterinary industry both locally and in other regions of the US.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

The greatest risk is that a **foreign animal disease** will enter the State and go undetected or unreported because of the fact that many producers do not have easy access to a local veterinarian who they feel they can trust. Delaware has one State Veterinarian and a part-time Deputy State Veterinarian. Between the two of us, it is not possible to maintain strong connections with more than a few of Delaware's animal producers. We must rely heavily on practicing veterinarians to act as our eyes and ears, informing us of unusual disease events or unhealthy management practices.

According to the 2007 census, 764 food animal premises were reported in Delaware. Breakdown of premises by county: 357 Kent, 258 Sussex, 149 New Castle. Our neighbors (Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey) also have significant food animal populations that would be in grave danger if a **foreign animal disease** were to go unnoticed for more than a day or two in Delaware. The shortage of food animal veterinarians is easily described by the overall Delaware ratio of 0.16 food animal veterinarians per 100 premises, excluding backyard flocks.

The presence of food animal veterinarians in Delaware will have many benefits to the health of the environment and the public. A few examples of how veterinarians can positively influence these areas:

- reduce the number of drug residues in milk and meat by routinely discussing record keeping, sick animal management, and proper dosing and administration of pharmaceuticals
- improve nutrient management as a result of on-farm observation and recommendations
- increase awareness of zoonotic diseases and how to best prevent their transmission on farms.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Heather L. Hirst  
State Animal Health Official for Delaware

Title: Delaware Department of Agriculture

Organization: heather.hirst@state.de.us

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Telephone Number: (Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any

other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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